

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The decision of the Board of Education to engage in improving educational facilities, which will assist in the enhancement of programs and instruction, is evidence that they are interested in providing the best educational opportunity for students within their financial capabilities.

In the Spring of 2007, KBD Planning Group, Inc. was retained by Battle Creek Public Schools to lead a Visioning Process and the development of educational specifications for a revitalized Battle Creek Central High School. The charge to this team was to lead faculty and staff through a visioning process that resulted in a clear description of how education will be delivered, at the high school level in the foreseeable future, to enable all students to reach their academic potential.

- Utilize all available resources to assist in the development and implementation of a plan to maximize existing space, adding new space, equipment and materials for a modern day campus to accommodate approximately 1,400 students in grades 9 through 12.
- Promote a balance between creative ideas and practical priorities for educational program and facility improvement.
- Assist faculty and staff with ways to improve facility needs to help assure educational equity.

To achieve this goal, planning charrettes were held over a period of several months with a visioning committee, consisting of high school faculty, staff and administrators from throughout the district. Through presentations, interactive exercises, small and large group work sessions, concepts were developed for a revitalized Battle Creek Central High School. After the planning charrettes were held, additional sessions were held with individual members of the visioning committee, to refine the standards previously agreed upon.

As a direct result of the Visioning process, these educational specifications call for the design solution to provide for:

- Clustering the Small Learning Communities spaces together to accommodate 350 students each, which will include Learning Studios for core academic subjects, special needs programs, appropriate laboratory spaces, and support spaces within each community.
- Four Faculty Collaboration Studios to accommodate all faculty in four teams tied directly to the Small Learning Communities.
- The creation of Administration and Guidance suites within each of the four Small Learning Communities.

- New space for Physical Education & Fitness Center, Administration, Food Service, and Student Dining/Commons.
- Enhanced and expanded Fine Arts, with the addition of a Black Box Theatre, Dance Studio and Broadcasting Studio.
- A new technology infrastructure that provides for voice, data, video and security systems throughout the campus and district.

It is important to note that the space requirements, furniture and equipment needs developed and included in this document were used as a departure point for planning and design. Where possible space has been planned to meet these requirements. However, given limiting conditions in the existing structure and budget, practically speaking, there may be some unavoidable deviations in the final solution.

This document relates directly to students. It provides information for the Board of Education, administration, and architects as they strive to meet the special needs of students now and well into the future. Every attempt has been made to establish spaces that will lead to a more active, engaging environment for high school students.

We at KBD Planning Group, Inc. appreciate this opportunity to work with the faculty and staff, as well as TMP Associates, Inc. to develop a vision for this historic educational structure.

*KBD Planning Group, Inc.
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